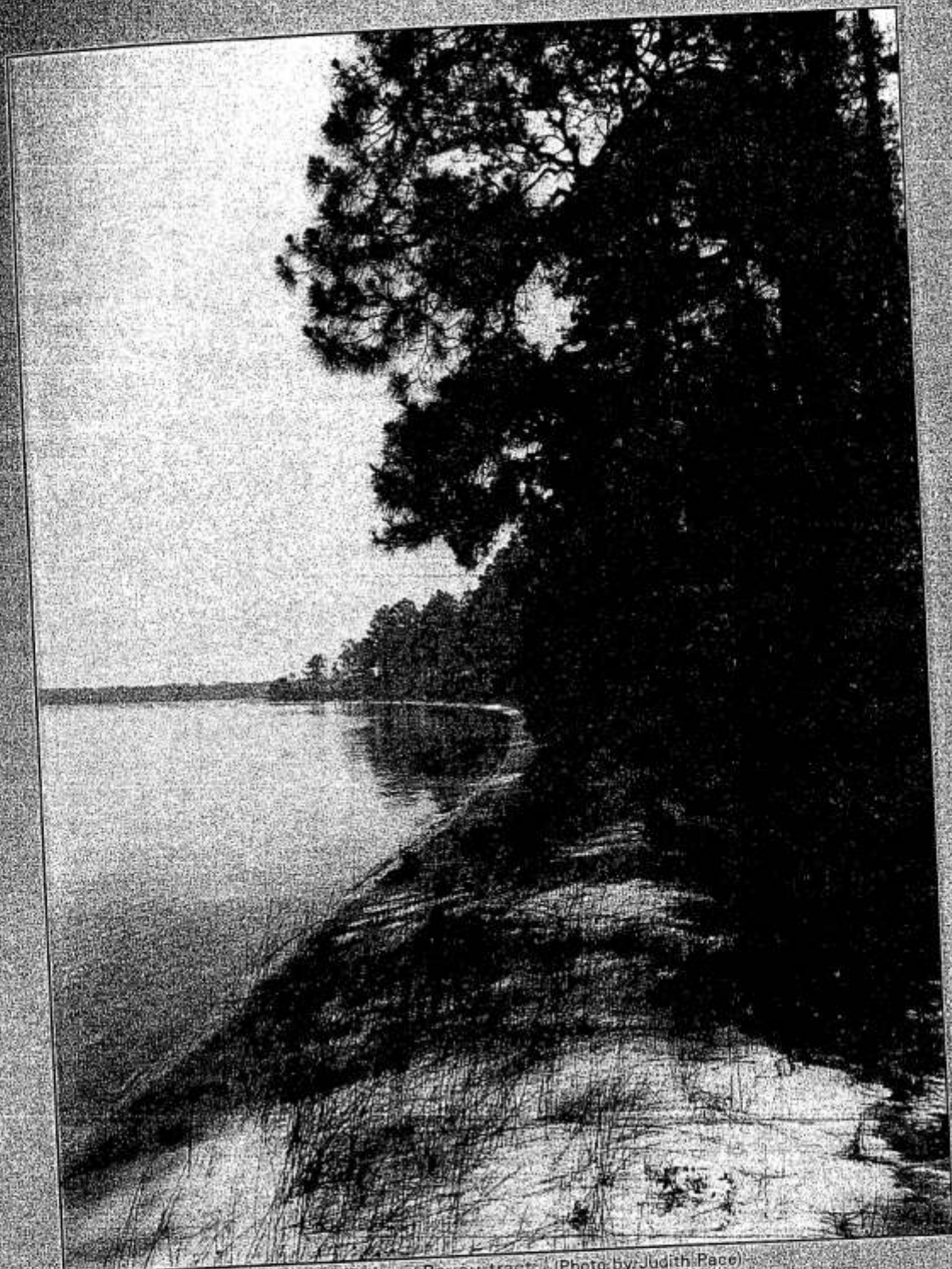


Appendices



Beach and pine flatwoods on Lathrop Bayou tract. (Photo by Judith Pace)

Appendix A

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Introduction

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) were authorized in Section 202 (c)(3) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, P.L. 94-579). ACECs are areas where special management attention is needed to protect, and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, and scenic values, fish or wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards.

To be designated an ACEC, an area must meet both the criteria of importance and relevance. A relevant resource is a significant value or resource of a type described above. An important resource is a value, system, process, or hazard which has substantial significance and values.

To be designated as an ACEC, an area must require special management attention to protect the important and relevant values. These are management measures which would not be necessary and prescribed if the critical and important features were not present. That is, they would not be prescribed in the absence of the designation. For each ACEC designated by this plan, management prescriptions have been developed, and are included in Chapter 2 as Land Use Allocations for surface tracts.

Areas Designated as ACECs

Jupiter Inlet

This tract is a unique and extraordinary remnant of natural biological diversity, surrounded by urban development. The tract supports approximately 45 acres of mature sand pine scrub

and xeric oak scrub. In Palm Beach County, where scrub communities have been reduced by 95 percent (Fernald 1989), this is one of the few remaining publicly-owned tracts of scrub habitat. It is an important link with remaining scrub areas, such as Jonathan Dickinson State Park to the north in Martin County. A band of black mangrove borders the Intracoastal Waterway on the eastern edge of the tract. Surveys completed in 1993 identified four special status wildlife species, including a breeding population of Florida scrub jay, Florida mouse, gopher tortoise, and scrub lizard. The portion of the Intracoastal Waterway adjacent to the tract is within designated manatee critical habitat. In addition, 10 special status plant species have been identified on the tract, including federally endangered beach jacquemontia and a single specimen of four-petal pawpaw. Parcels A and B of this tract are designated an ACEC.

Cape San Blas

This beachfront tract is predominately slash pine/palmetto in upland areas with a relatively well-developed coastal dune system. The low dunes are vegetated with typical sea grape, sea oats, and scattered palmetto. Loggerhead turtles nested on this tract in 1992. Atlantic green sea turtles have nested at nearby Eglin Air Force Base, and may utilize this tract. The tract provides suitable habitat for the southeastern snowy plover, a frequent breeder at the tip of the Cape San Blas. It is also likely that wintering piping plover use the tract. Vehicular and pedestrian use of the beaches in this area may be inhibiting use of the tract by these shorebirds. Peregrine falcon are known to winter in this area, and are a frequent fall and spring migrant. Bald eagles have been observed in the area, and nest on nearby St. Vincent Island. This tract is designated an ACEC to protect the coastal dune habitat.

